

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

IRRIGATION CANAL OR LATERAL – CODE 320

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

Land Owner/Operator _____

Address _____

Parish _____ SWCD _____ Farm/Tract No. _____

Practice Location Section _____ Township _____ Range _____

Prepared By _____ Date _____

A properly operated and maintained irrigation canal or lateral is an asset to the farm. This system of canals and/or laterals is designed and installed to convey water from the source of supply to beginning of the farm irrigation system. The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and usually increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require you to perform periodic operation to maintain satisfactory performance. Here are some recommendations to help you develop a good operation and maintenance program:

GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

- Conduct periodic and post-storm inspections to detect and minimize damage to the canal or lateral
- Maintain cross section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and sloughing of side slopes and berms.
- Immediately remove silt deposits, obstructions, or blockage of the drainage system.
- Control the growth of vegetative materials by the use of mowing and/or herbicides. Avoid direct irrigation water contact with herbicides.
- Remove all foreign debris that hinders system operation.
- Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
- Replace damaged structures to constructed grade.
- Immediately repair any rodent, vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Contact your local NRCS Field Office for any additional technical assistance you might need for implementation of this operation and maintenance plan for your irrigation canal or lateral.